

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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WRC-2003 Seeks to Resolve Undesirable Sharing at 40-Meters

The Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 has come up with five different ways to remedy the sharing of 40 meter Amateur spectrum with the HF Broadcasting Service. A sixth option would leave things as they are now. Two of the five methods would fulfill the 300-kHz worldwide allocation that the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is seeking.

The good news is that all six methods maintain the existing 300-kHz exclusive amateur allocation in ITU Region 2, North, Central and South America.

The output of the Conference Preparatory Meeting is a huge technical report that is more than 700 pages long. The CPM Report addresses each WRC-03 agenda item and contains different options along with the advantages and disadvantages of each for satisfying the item.

Fourteen pages of the CPM Report specifically deals with Agenda item 1.23, the possible realignment of the 7-MHz amateur and broadcasting allocations.

Background

The need for a realignment of the amateur and broadcasting allocations has been ongoing for a number of years. Until 1938, the 7000-7300 kHz band was exclusively allocated to the Amateur Service on a worldwide basis. Over the next twenty years, conditions in Europe and Asia gradually led to a reduction in Amateur Service spectrum in ITU Region 1 and 3 to 7000-7100 kHz. This change became effective at WRC-59. The Region 2 allocation

remained unchanged at 7 000-7 300 kHz.

The CPM Report said "For the Amateur Service, the usefulness of the allocations around 7 MHz for worldwide links is limited because only 100 kHz of spectrum between 7 000 and 7 100 kHz is common to Region 2 and Regions 1 and 3."

"Given the large disparity in signal levels between the two services, broadcasting transmissions cause interference to the sensitive receivers used in the Amateur Service during periods of good propagation between Regions 1 and 2. The degree of interference experienced in Region 2 varies with the time-of-day, season, solar activity and distance from broadcasting stations in other regions."

A 1990 "Compatibility considerations arising from the allocation of spectrum to HF broadcasting" study concluded that "...the sharing of frequency bands by the Amateur Service and Broadcasting Service is undesirable and should be avoided, because of system incompatibility between Broadcasting and Amateur." The study also said that:

- (a.) the entire 300 kHz Amateur allocation is required in Region 2 for the Amateur Service,
- (b.) some movement in frequency of the allocation to the amateur services around 7 MHz may be acceptable,
- (c.) a reduction of the amount of contiguous spectrum allocated to the Broadcasting Service in the 7 MHz band is unacceptable to broadcasters, but there is flexibility with regard to the actual location of this band and
- (d.) some sharing between the Amateur Service and the Fixed/Mobile Service may be possible.

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The CPM came up with six possible methods to satisfy the agenda item along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. Five methods result in additional allocations for the Amateur Service in Regions 1 and 3 immediately above its current 7 000-7 100 kHz allocation and retention of the current allocation of 7 100-7 300 kHz in Region 2, with the broadcasting service in Regions 1 and 3 moving up in frequency.

Some methods also provide additional allocations to the broadcasting service in Region 2. In some cases the band above 7350 kHz currently allocated to the fixed service on a primary basis and the land mobile service on a secondary basis would be affected. Additional methods may be introduced at WRC-03.

Some administrations, in particular those of developing countries, are of the opinion that, due to the technical, operational and economic impacts of the various proposed re-alignments, the corresponding time-frames need to be sufficiently long in order to enable these administrations to implement the decisions, if they are adopted.

SIX METHODS ARE SUGGESTED TO SATISFY AGENDA ITEM 1.23 AND THEIR ADVANTAGES, DISADVANTAGES

Five methods result in additional allocations for the amateur service in Regions 1 and 3 immediately above its current 7 000-7 100 kHz allocation and retention of the current allocation of 7 100-7 300 kHz in Region 2, with the broadcasting service in Regions 1 and 3 moving up in frequency. Some methods also provide additional allocations to the broadcasting service in Region 2.

Some administrations, in particular those of developing countries, are of the opinion that, due to the technical, operational and economic impacts of the proposed alignments contained in this document, the corresponding time-frames need to be sufficiently long in order to enable these administrations to implement the decisions, if so decided. Some other administrations are of the view that sufficient regard has been given to these aspects in the various methods.

Method A (1 of 6)

This method provides a worldwide exclusive allocation to the amateur service of 7 000-7 300 kHz and a worldwide primary allocation to the broadcasting service of at least 250 kHz of contiguous spectrum above 7 300 kHz.

In order to reduce the impact of the changes to the broadcasting, fixed and land mobile services to manageable levels this option would be introduced over several years in two stages (starting date: D1 and completion date: D2) as follows:

Stage 1 (see table: Method "A")

6 765-7 000 kHz	Fixed and mobile (except aero. mobile, co-primary)
7 000-7 100 kHz	Amateur and amateur-satellite co-primary (NOC)
7 100-7 200 kHz	Amateur primary
7 200-7 300 kHz	Broadcasting primary Regions 1 and 3, amateur

primary Region 2 (No change)

7 300-7 450 kHz Broadcasting primary

5.142 The use of the band 7 200-7 300 kHz in Region 2 by the amateur service shall not impose constraints on the broadcasting service intended for use within Region 1 and Region 3.

D1 could range from the date of entry into force for the WRC-03 changes and 1 April 2007.

Stage 2 (see table: Method "A")

6 765-7 000 kHz	Fixed and mobile (except aeronautical mobile)
7 000-7 100 kHz	Amateur and amateur-satellite co-primary (NOC)
7 100-7 300 kHz	Amateur primary
7 300-7 550 kHz	Broadcasting primary

D2 = 3 to 5 years after D1 and no later than 2010.

Advantages:

Amateur service

- Global harmonization.
- Conforms with the present Region 2 amateur allocation.
- Removal of regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.
- Spectrum requirements will be met in Regions 1 and 3.

Broadcasting service

- Global harmonization of 7 MHz broadcasting band.
- Additional spectrum in Region 2.
- Improved relationship between the 7 MHz broadcasting band and the 6 MHz and 9 MHz broadcasting bands, to meet changing propagation.
- Removal of regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.

Disadvantages:

Broadcasting service

- Economic impact of broadcast spectrum shift. Both broadcasters and listeners may be affected and/or face extra costs. However, it is easier for the broadcasting service to adapt under this two-stage process, rather than if all the changes came into effect at a single date.

Table: Method "A" – Example of stage 1 of a realignment process, which improves the utility of the band allocations around 7 MHz while retaining regional differences during an interim period, commencing at date D1 and running to date D2.

6.765 – 7.450 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
6.765 – 7.000	FIXED MOBILE (except aeronautical mobile)	
7.000 – 7.100	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE	
7.100 – 7.200	AMATEUR	
7.200 – 7.300 BROADCASTING	7.200 – 7.300 AMATEUR	7.200 – 7.300 BROADCASTING
7.300 – 7.450	BROADCASTING	

As shown, the changes are appropriate to a first stage implementation date D1, as determined by WRC-03, but prior to 1 April 2007.

Example of stage 2 of a realignment process, which provides for globally harmonized allocations around 7 MHz, following an interim period, retaining regional differences, commencing at date D2.

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6.765 – 7.450 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
6.765 – 7.000	FIXED MOBILE (except aeronautical mobile)	
7.000 – 7.100	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE	
7.100 – 7.300	AMATEUR	
7.300 – 7.550	BROADCASTING	

Method B (2 of 6)

This method provides a worldwide exclusive allocation to the amateur service of 7 000-7 200 kHz, a regional allocation of 7 200-7 300 kHz to the amateur service in Region 2 and to the amateur, fixed, and mobile except aeronautical mobile services in Regions 1 and 3, and a worldwide primary allocation to the broadcasting service of 7 300-7 550 kHz.

In order to minimize the time-frame for access to the new proposed bands for the amateur service to be as short as possible, the frequency band 7 100-7 200 kHz can be allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis from 1 January 2005.

This option would be introduced over several years in two stages

Stage 1 (see table: Method "B")

6 765-7 000 kHz	Fixed and mobile (except aero. mobile, co-primary)
7 000-7 100 kHz	Amateur and amateur-satellite co-primary
7 100-7 200 kHz	Amateur, fixed and mobile (except aero. co-primary Regions 1 & 3, amateur primary Region 2)
7 200-7 300 kHz	Broadcasting primary Regions 1 & 3, amateur primary Region 2 (No change)
7 300-7 450 kHz	Broadcasting primary
7 450-8 100 kHz	Fixed and mobile (except aero. mobile, co-primary)

D1 = 1 April 2007.

Stage 2 (see table: Method "B")

6 765-7 000 kHz	Fixed and mobile (except aero. mobile, co-primary)
7 000-7 100 kHz	Amateur and amateur-satellite co-primary (NOC)
7 100-7 200 kHz	Amateur primary
7 200-7 300 kHz	Amateur, fixed & mobile (except aero. mobile) co-primary Regions 1 & 3, amateur primary Region 2
7 300-7 550 kHz	Broadcasting primary
7 550-8 100 kHz	Fixed and mobile (except aero. mobile) co-primary

D2 = 25 October 2009.

Advantages:

Amateur service

- Conforms with the present Region 2 amateur allocation.
- Removal of regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.
- Spectrum requirements will be met in Regions 1 & 3.

Broadcasting service

- Global harmonization of 7 MHz broadcasting band.
- Additional spectrum in Region 2.
- Improved relationship between the 7 MHz broadcasting band and the 6 MHz and 9 MHz broadcasting bands, to meet changing propagation.
- Removal of regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.

Disadvantages:

Amateur service

- Requires sharing of 100 kHz with fixed and mobile services in Regions 1 and 3.

Broadcasting service

- Economic impact of broadcast spectrum shift. Both broadcasters and listeners may be affected and/or face extra costs. However, it is easier for the broadcasting service to adapt under this two-stage process, rather than if all the changes came into effect at a single date.

Table: Method "B" – Example of stage 1 of a realignment process, which improves the utility of the band allocations around 7 MHz while retaining regional differences during an interim period, commencing at date D1.

6.765 – 8.100 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
6.765 – 7.000	FIXED MOBILE (except aeronautical mobile)	
7.000 – 7.100	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE	
7.100 – 7.200	7.100 – 7.200	7.100 – 7.200
AMATEUR	AMATEUR	AMATEUR
FIXED		FIXED
MOBILE (Except aero)		MOBILE (Except aero)
7.200 – 7.300	7.200 – 7.300	7.200 – 7.300
BROADCASTING	AMATEUR	BROADCASTING
7.300 – 7.450	BROADCASTING	
7.450 – 8.100	FIXED MOBILE (Except. Aeronautical mobile)	

Example of stage 2 of a realignment process, which provides for globally harmonized allocations around 7 MHz, following an interim period, retaining regional differences, commencing at date D2.

6.765 – 8.100 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
6.765 – 7.000	FIXED MOBILE (except aeronautical mobile)	
7.000 – 7.100	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE	
7.100 – 7.200	AMATEUR	
7.200 – 7.300	7.200 – 7.300	7.200 – 7.300
AMATEUR	AMATEUR	AMATEUR
FIXED		FIXED
MOBILE (Except aero)		MOBILE (Except aero)
7.300 – 7.550	BROADCASTING	
7.550 – 8.100	FIXED MOBILE (Except. Aeronautical mobile)	

Method C (3 of 6)

This method provides a worldwide exclusive allocation of 200 kHz to the amateur service in the band 7 000-7 200 kHz. There would be no change to the allocation between 7 200-7 300 kHz. A worldwide exclusive

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allocation of 100 kHz would be allocated to the broadcasting service in the band 7 350-7 450 kHz.:

6 765-7 000 kHz	Fixed & mobile (except aero. mobile) co-primary
7 000-7 100 kHz	Amateur and amateur-satellite co-primary
7 100-7 200 kHz	Amateur primary
7 200-7 300 kHz	Broadcasting primary Regions 1 & 3, amateur primary Region 2 (No change)
7 300-7 450 kHz	Broadcasting primary
7 450-8 100 kHz	Fixed & mobile (except aero. mobile) co-primary

Advantages:

Amateur service

- Worldwide exclusive allocation increases to 200 kHz.
- Doubles spectrum available to amateur service in Reg. 1 & 3.
- Decrease of regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.
- Allocation of 300 kHz is maintained in Region 2.
- Provides improved regional operability for the amateur service through the availability of 200 kHz of common spectrum.

Broadcasting service

- Worldwide exclusive allocation increases from 50 to 150 kHz.
- Increases broadcasting allocation in Region 2 by 100 kHz.

Disadvantages:

Amateur service

- 300 kHz exclusive worldwide requirement is not met.
- Regional sharing w/broadcasting is not eliminated completely

Broadcasting service

- Regional sharing w/amateur is not eliminated completely.
- Some economic impact to broadcast spectrum shift. Both broadcasters and listeners may be affected and/or face extra costs.

Table: Method "C"

6.765 – 8.100 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
6.765 – 7.000	FIXED MOBILE (except aeronautical mobile)	
7.000 – 7.100	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE	
7.100 – 7.200	AMATEUR	
7.200 – 7.300	7.200 – 7.300 AMATEUR	7.200 – 7.300 BROADCASTING
7.300 – 7.450	BROADCASTING	
7.450 – 8.100	FIXED MOBILE (Except Aeronautical mobile)	

The implementation date for this option should be 1 April 2007.

Method D (4 of 6)

This method would provide a worldwide exclusive allocation to the amateur service at 7 000-7 300 kHz with no resultant loss or gain of spectrum by the broadcasting service. Also, to help compensate for the loss of spectrum by the fixed and mobile services in Regions 1 and 3, and to provide for more flexibility, the mobile service would be elevated to co-primary status with the fixed service.

In order to reduce the impact of the changes to the broadcasting, fixed and land mobile services, by allowing sufficient time for administrations to manage this transition, these changes would be introduced over several years with a completion date of 1 April 2010. The following schedule outlines a proposed timeline of the transition:

As of entry into force of the Final Acts of WRC-03:

7 100-7 300	Broadcasting primary and amateur secondary in Regions 1 and 3. No change in Region 2.
7 350-7 550	Broadcasting co-primary with fixed, land mobile secondary in Regions 1 and 3. No change in Region 2.

As of 1 April 2007

7 100-7 300	Amateur exclusive worldwide.
7 300-7 350	Broadcasting worldwide as of 1 April 2007.
7 350-7 550	Broadcasting primary, fixed and land mobile secondary in Regions 1 and 3. No change in Region 2.

As of 1 April 2010

7 350-7 550	Broadcasting exclusive Regions 1 and 3. No change in Region 2.
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Advantages:

Amateur service

- Global harmonization.
- Conforms with the present Region 2 amateur allocation.
- Removal of regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.
- Spectrum requirements will be met in Regions 1 and 3.

Broadcasting service

- Removal of regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.
- No loss of spectrum to broadcasting service

Disadvantages:

Broadcasting service

- Economic impact of broadcast spectrum shift. Both broadcasters and listeners may be affected and/or face extra costs. The impact is eased by a three-stage, rather than a one-stage process.
- The lack of interregional realignment as requested in the agenda item.

Table: Method "D" – Example of the Table of Frequency Allocations as it would appear after the completion of the realignment process.

6.765 – 7.350 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
6.765 – 7.000	FIXED MOBILE (except aeronautical mobile) 5.138 5.139	
7.000 – 7.100	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE 5.140 5.141	
7.100 – 7.300	7.100 – 7.300 AMATEUR	7.100 – 7.300 AMATEUR
7.300 – 7.350	BROADCASTING 5.134 5.143	

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7.350 – 8.100 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
7.350 – 7.550 BROADCASTING	7.350 – 7.550 FIXED MOBILE (Except Aeronautical mobile)	7.350 – 7.550 BROADCASTING
7.550 – 8.100	FIXED MOBILE (Except, Aeronautical mobile) 5.144	

Method E (5 of 6)

This method would provide a worldwide allocation of 200 kHz to the amateur service in the band 7 000-7 200 kHz. The band 7 100-7 200 kHz is also allocated to fixed and land mobile services with co-primary status in Regions 1 and 3. There would be no change to the allocation between 7 200-7 300 kHz. A worldwide exclusive allocation of 100 kHz would be allocated to the broadcasting service in the band 7 350-7 450 kHz.

- 6 765-7 000 Fixed primary and land mobile secondary (No change)
- 7 000-7 100 Amateur and amateur-satellite co-primary (No change)
- 7 100-7 200 Amateur, fixed and land mobile co-primary in Regions 1 and 3, amateur primary in Region 2
- 7 200-7 300 Broadcasting primary in Regions 1 and 3, amateur primary in Region 2 (No change)
- 7 300-7 450 Broadcasting primary
- 7 450-8 100 Fixed primary and land mobile secondary (NOC)

Advantages:

Amateur service

- Worldwide allocation increases from 100 kHz to 200 kHz.
- Doubles spectrum available to amateur service in Reg. 1 & 3
- Some improvement of regional amateur/broadcasting alignment.
- Allocation of 300 kHz is maintained in Region 2.
- Provides improved regional operability for the amateur service through the availability of 200 kHz of common spectrum.

Broadcasting service

- Worldwide exclusive allocation increases from 50 to 150 kHz.
- Increases allocation to broadcasting in Region 2 by 100 kHz.

Disadvantages:

Amateur service

- 300 kHz exclusive worldwide requirement is not met.
- Regional amateur/broadcasting alignment is not completely achieved.

Broadcasting service

- Regional amateur/broadcasting alignment is not completely achieved.
- Economic impact of broadcast spectrum shift, both broadcasters and listeners may be affected and/or face additional costs.

Table: Method "E"

6.765 – 8.100 kHz

Allocation to services		
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
6.765 – 7.000	FIXED MOBILE (except aeronautical mobile)	

7.000 – 7.100	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE	
7.100 – 7.200	7.100 – 7.300	7.100 – 7.200
AMATEUR FIXED LAND MOBILE	AMATEUR	AMATEUR FIXED LAND MOBILE
7.200 – 7.300		7.200 – 7.300
BROADCASTING		BROADCASTING
7.300 – 7.450	BROADCASTING	
7.450 – 8.100	FIXED MOBILE (Except, Aeronautical mobile)	

The implementation date for this option should be 1 April 2007.

Method F (6 of 6)

WRC-03 may decide to make no changes to the allocations under this agenda item.

No change to Article 5 is required under this method.

Advantages:

Broadcasting service

- No change to current allocations.

Disadvantages:

Amateur service

- The current situation and resultant difficulties arising from unharmonized amateur service bands will continue.

Broadcasting service

- Regional amateur/broadcasting alignment is not achieved.

Regulatory and procedural considerations

If any of the above methods, except Method F, are adopted the appropriate consequential amendments to the (International) Radio Regulations would need to be considered.

AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of February 1, 2003:

District	Extra	Advanced	Tech./General/Novice
0	AB0XS	KI0SL	→ KC0PFI
1	AB1CB	KE1ME	→ KB1JLQ
2	AB2QG	KG2RR	→ KC2KWL
3	AB3AM	KF3EG	→ KB3JDK
4	AG4YI	KV4GT	→ KG4YOC
5	AD5NI	KM5XX	→ KD5VHO
6	AE6LF	KR6FE	→ KG6PFN
7	AC7XO	KK7XO	→ KD7UMM
8	AB8QN	KI8KD	→ KC8VUL
9	AB9HD	KG9QV	→ KC9DGG
Hawaii	→	AH6RQ	NH7PV WH6DGT
Alaska	→	AL7RV	KL1LA WL7CVR
Virgin Isl.	→	KP2CT	NP2MM WP2AIP
Puerto Rico	→	KP3BN	WP3WE WP4NOZ

[Source: FCC Amateur Service Database, Washington, DC]

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EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

You probably know that Dolby Digital surround sound is known as "5.1". But do you know why it is called "5.1" rather than "6" since there are six speakers

The 5.1 configuration features five discrete full-range channels — left, center, right (in the front), left surround, and right surround (in the back) — plus a sixth channel (placed anywhere) for those powerful low-frequency effects (LFE) that are felt more than heard on DVDs, in cinemas and home theatres.

The sixth (sub-woofer) channel for those low-frequency effects (LFE) has only about one-tenth the bandwidth of the others, so it is referred to as the ".1" channel. Now you know!

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

Google, the innovative search engine people, has just bought Pyra Labs — a little known San Francisco company that is a leader in weblogs, the enormously popular online personal diary and opinion journals.

Pyra Labs are the people that wrote the popular "Blogger" weblog publishing tool in 1999 ...and in doing so, unleashed thousands of amateur publishers upon the Net.

Pyra founder Evan Williams said he sold the software company after brainstorming with his team of six developers. "I was convinced... (that) we could do much cooler things for our users and the Web at an incredibly large scale by being part of Google," he said.

Pyra's Blogger software has 1.1 million registered users, 200,000 of them are actively writing a weblog. The basic Blogger software is free but they also distribute a \$35 gradeup commercial version called BloggerPro which supplies most of the company's revenue.

Googles foray into weblogs appears to be an extension of its indexing of Usenet "newsgroups" and its newly created Google News, a robot site that automatically collects and posts current news. It is expected that Google will add 'blog' searching to its various search functions. Google might even use weblog links to improve Google News.

Weblogging is just now starting to explode into the mainstream and many big Internet portals are looking to get into it ...AOL, Microsoft, and Yahoo among them. Tripod, the Web publishing unit of Lycos is already offering Weblog software and hosting. And hundreds of thousands of people read a daily weblog of some sort ...a potentially big audience for advertising. <www.blogger.com>.

Google has received the 2002 "Brand of the Year" award from Interbrand, a British agency that assists companies in developing their products. The search engine was ranked 4th in last year's survey. Google gets 150 million queries a day from more than 100 countries ...and now logs more search hours than the rest of the industry combined.

Professionals and students from 72 countries said Google was the brand that had made the most impact on their lives in 2002. They praised the Web site service for maintaining a simple interface, despite being powered by complicated technology. Interestingly, Google does no advertising. It is all word-of-mouth.

Google has the best brains in Silicon Valley. They get them (and keep them) with unbelievable perks such as free massage therapy, all the snacks you can eat and free gourmet lunches served daily. <www.google.com/jobs/food.html>

The site is doing fantastically well financially too: One estimate has fiscal 2002 profits at \$100 million, and a IPO (initial public offering) is rumored to be in the works.

GADGETS & GIZMOS

According to NPDFunworld, a leading market research company, **total U.S. retail sales of video game hardware, software and accessories grew 10 percent last year generating \$10.3 billion in record-breaking sales.**

Prices of GameBoy Advance, Game Cube, Sony Playstation 2, and Xbox consoles dropped to almost one-third of their original price in first half of 2002. The new price points opened the doors to the mass market, which in turn led to the dramatic increase in unit sales.

Unit sales of Nintendo's handheld Game Boy Advance rose 56 percent, Nintendo's GameCube console was up 31 percent, Microsoft's Xbox grew 29 percent and Sony's PlayStation 2 gained

24 percent.

In total, video game software sales increased 28 percent last year. PS2 game software sales volume was up 20 percent, Xbox games was up 26 percent, GameCube software was up 86 percent and handheld Game Boy Advance up 28 percent. Nine of the top ten 2002 game titles were for the PS2.

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

Singles are flocking to the Internet to find dates. According to Jupiter Research, more than 16 million people visited an online dating site in 2002 with sales of online personal ads totaling more than \$313 million last year. It is very big business!

Match.com, the largest player in this category, says it has 700,000 subscribers paying \$24.95 a month ...and another eight million post profiles or are active users. More than 500,000 new members register each month at Match.com, which also delivers Internet personals to AOL, MSN and CitySearch.

Contrary to the usual opinion, users are generally upscale: Fifty- seven percent are male, 43 percent female. Fifty percent earn at least \$50,000 and 28 percent earn at least \$75,000. Eighty-one percent attended or graduated from college.

Spurred by the skyrocketing popularity of text messaging, Match.com and AT&T Wireless are now teamed up to launch a match-making service for cell phone customers. "Match Mobile" users will also be able to attach digital photos to their text messages.

Match.com (which is active in 27 countries) is a part of USA Interactive which also owns Ticketmaster.com, Expedia.com (travel) and Hotels.com.

Here's a website you need to check out from time to time. <www.TheSmokingGun.com>

shows exclusive documents — about name people — that can't be found elsewhere on the Web. The material is obtained from government and law enforcement sources, via Freedom of Information requests, and from court files nationwide.

The gossipy site was founded in April 1997. In December 2000, The Smoking Gun was acquired by Court TV, a basic cable network. Some of the disclosures there are unbelievable.

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AMATEUR RADIO

Want a duplicate hard copy of your Amateur Radio license?
Here is how to get one online.

- (1.) Go to this website:
<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and
- (2.) Click on the button in the middle next to the word "Search" that says "Licenses."
- (3.) Enter your station call sign in the box and on the next screen
- (4.) Click on your call sign which will be underlined as a link.
- (5.) Click on the "Reference Copy" link near the top of the page.
- (6.) Print out the Duplicate license.

While it may not be an "official" license, it is just as good as the one sent out by the FCC. Actually, the only "official" license is the listing contained in the FCC's Amateur Service database.

FCC Radio Enforcement News

David L. Price, WA6FUL (Redwood City, CA) has had his authority to operate his repeater station under automatic control revoked until an enforcement matter in which he is involved is resolved. His station has been monitored using a false call sign on his WA6FUL 441.00 MHz repeater and not using any call sign when operating a repeater on 52.64 MHz.

The FCC said that it has information "...that you are aware of the false identification and the failure to identify but have declined to correct either problem."

WA6FUL faces license revocation and a fine if he operates his repeater station under automatic control prior to FCC approval. He was also directed to furnish current coordination documents for his 441.100 MHz and 52.64 MHz repeaters.

The Village of Ladd (Illinois) has been advised by the FCC that it may be causing harmful interference to sensitive Amateur Radio operations of Rudy Marusich, W9PZT, also of Ladd, IL.

The FCC said power-line equipment is classified as an "incidental radiator" and must not cause interference to authorized radio stations. Section 15.5 requires RF devices causing such interference to cease operations and not resume until the condition has been corrected.

The complainant has attempted unsuccessfully to work through the power company's usual complaint resolution process. The FCC said it prefers that such problems be solved without FCC intervention, but will conduct its own investigation if necessary and impose "appropriate remedies" including "...a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence."

The power company was directed to advise Mr. Marusich of the steps being taken to correct the interference. The FCC is to be notified if the problem is not corrected within 60 days.

Francisco Martes, KB2RJZ (Rose-dale, NY) has been cited for unlicensed operation by the FCC. He has been monitored operating radio-transmitting equipment on 26.540 MHz, a frequency not authorized by his Technician Class license. "Such operation will subject you to fine or imprisonment, as well as seizure of radio transmitting equipment. ... Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000," FCC said.

Glenn B. Roberts, KF6YRY (Tujunga, CA) has been warned that he has been monitored deliberately interfering with the N6SAP repeater system on 146.435. The interference has included music and other unidentified transmissions from your mobile unit. "Continued incidents of such interference to the N6SAP repeater, or to any other Amateur communications, will subject you to revocation and suspension proceedings, as well as a monetary forfeiture." The FCC noted that Roberts has been asked not to use the repeater system and "We expect that request to be honored."

George A. Albrecht, N8PGB (Lansing, MI) was also cited for deliberately interfering with the W8LCC repeater system operating on 442.025 MHz "...by sending unidentified transmissions and keying down to cause sound effects from the link to 52.525 MHz." He faces revocation of his Amateur Radio license and a fine if these incidents continue.

Thomas A. Brothers, K18BE (Berkley, MI) has had his Advanced Class license canceled and he may not reapply for an Amateur license until December 5, 2007. This action is a result of monitoring and direction finding by the Detroit Field Office establishing that he operated an unlicensed FM radio station from his

residence in 2001. He was previously fined \$10,000 which was later rescinded due to his inability to pay.

Benjamin Leroy Carter, (also known as Malik "Copafel" Abdul) a native of Haiti, now residing in Orlando, Florida was sentenced on February 5, 2003, to 18 months probation, 4 months of which will be served as home confinement. In addition, Carter is required to perform 50 hours of community service.

The conviction and subsequent sentencing is the result of an investigation that began in February of 1999 when the FCC received complaints from residents and broadcasters in the Orlando, Florida area of interference to the reception of licensed radio broadcast stations in the area.

Carter pled guilty to seven counts of unlicensed radio operation and agreed to forfeit all equipment used in connection with the unlicensed operation in November of 2002.

Josue Alusma (Naples, FL) and Ian R. Walker (Jacksonville, FL) have each been ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine for their unlicensed operation of an FM radio station on 95.5 and 100.5 MHz. **Jon Hannan, Jr. (Accessory Connection, Inc., Palm Bay, FL)** was ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine. All three had been issued Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL's) by the FCC's Tampa District Office to which they failed to respond.

Arthur E. Powell, K8ART (Portland, TN) has been warned by the FCC that monitoring information indicates he has "...on numerous occasions ...operated radio-transmitting equipment on 14.251 and 21.255 MHz." These frequencies are not authorized to Technician Class license operators. He is to contact the FCC.

Dick Haven, WB8FGQ (Byron Center, MI) has again been asked to supply information concerning his July 12, 2000, application for vanity call sign WB8FGQ. "In that application you indicated that you were eligible for the call sign as 'A) Former primary station holder'. Your application for WB8FGQ was granted on August 1, 2000." The requested documentation has not been received and if not received within 15 days "...your call sign will revert to the previous KC8OXE."

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U.S. APPROVES WRC-03 AMATEUR PROPOSALS

The U.S. State Department has forwarded several WRC-03 agenda items to Geneva as being the opening U.S. position ...including Agenda Item 1.7 which considers possible changes to Article 25, the international Amateur Service rules. This is what the U.S. is proposing:

ARTICLE 25 Amateur services

Section I – Amateur service

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.1 § 1.

25.1 § 1 Radiocommunications between amateur stations of different countries shall be forbidden if the administration of one of the countries concerned has notified that it objects to such radiocommunications.

Reasons: No longer required. An administration has the necessary authority to determine the points of communication of amateur stations it has licensed.

Add (replace it with) the following new 25.1 § 1.

25.1 § 1 Administrations shall verify the technical and operational qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station.

Reasons: To renumber and editorially simplify No. 25.6.

Modify (reword) current 25.2 § 2 (1).

25.2 § 2 (1) When transmissions between amateur stations of different countries are permitted, they shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified.

To the following 25.2 § 2 (1).

25.2 § 2 (1) Transmissions between amateur stations of different countries shall be limited to communications incidental to the purposes of the amateur service or of a personal character.

2) Except with the authority of the relevant administration granted to meet a particular operational need, transmissions between amateur stations shall not be encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.

Reasons: To eliminate obsolete restrictions while retaining the non-commercial nature of the amateur service and to update the "plain language" requirement by replacing it with "not encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning."

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.3 (2). [See footnote 1]

25.3 (2) It is absolutely forbidden for amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties.

Reasons: No longer required. Privatized telecommunications services do not require protection from bypass. The cost of telecommunications services is now so low that the amateur service is not an attractive alternative except in rare cases of isolated stations. Other regulations are sufficient to protect the non-commercial nature of the service.

Add the following new 25.3 § 3.

25.3 § 3 Administrations are urged to take the steps necessary to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in the event of a natural disaster.

Reasons: To recognize the disaster communications capability of the amateur service consistent with Recommendation ITU-R M.1042-1, which recommends that administrations encourage the development of amateur networks capable of providing communications in the event of natural disasters and that amateur organizations be allowed to exercise their networks periodically during normal non-disaster periods.

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.4 (3).

25.4 (3) The preceding provisions may be modified by special arrangements between the administrations of the countries concerned.

Reasons: No longer required. To eliminate the administrative burden of the necessity of making special arrangements between countries.

Add the following new 25.4 § 3.

25.4 § 3 An administration may, without issuing a licence, permit a person who has been granted a licence to operate an amateur station by another administration, to operate an amateur station while that person is temporarily in its territory, subject to such conditions or restrictions it may impose.

Reasons: Article 18 requires that all transmitting stations be licensed but provides for special arrangements in certain circumstances. None of these special arrangements applies to the amateur and amateur-satellite services. The proposed addition makes it clear that administrations are authorized and encouraged to permit visiting amateurs to operate without being required to issue them a licence while protecting the prerogatives of administrations.

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.5 §3 (1). [See footnote 2]

25.5 § 3 (1) Any person seeking a licence to operate the apparatus of an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals. The administrations concerned may, however, waive this requirement in the case of stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 MHz.

Reasons: To eliminate the requirement to prove Morse code ability and to leave this matter to administrations.

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.6 (2).

25.6 (2) Administrations shall take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station.

Reasons: To renumber and editorially simplify as No. 25.1.

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.7 §4.

25.7 § 4. The maximum power of amateur stations shall be fixed by the administrations concerned, having regard to the technical qualifications of the operators and to the conditions under which these stations are to operate.

Reasons: Redundant. See No. 15.2, which provides that "Transmitting stations shall radiate only as much power as is necessary to ensure a satisfactory service."

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.8 §5 (1).

25.8 § 5. (1) All the general rules of the Convention, the Convention and of these Regulations shall apply to amateur stations. In particular, the emitted frequency shall be as stable and as free from spurious emissions as the state of technical development for such stations permits.

Reasons: To simplify the Regulations by eliminating a redundant provision.

Suppress (eliminate) current 25.9 §5 (1).

25.9 (2) During the course of their transmissions, amateur stations shall transmit their call sign at short intervals.

Reasons: Redundant. See Nos. 19.4 and 19.5, which requires the amateur service to carry identification signals.

Section II – Amateur-satellite service

Modify current 25.10 § 6 by renumbering to 25.5 § 5.

25.5 § 5 The provisions of Section I of this Article shall apply equally, as appropriate, to the amateur-satellite service.

Reasons: Consequential renumbering.

Modify current 25.11 § 7....

25.11 § 7. Space stations in the amateur-satellite service operating in bands shared with other services shall be fitted with appropriate devices for controlling emissions in the event

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that harmful interference is reported in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 15. Administrations authorizing such space stations shall inform the Bureau and shall ensure that sufficient earth command stations are established before launch to guarantee that any harmful interference which might be reported can be terminated by the authorizing administration (see No. 22.1).

by renumbering to 25.6 § 6 and rewording.

25.6 § 6 Administrations authorizing such space stations shall ensure that sufficient earth command stations are established before launch to ensure that any harmful interference caused by emissions from a station in the amateur-satellite service can be immediately eliminated.

Reasons: Consequential renumbering and simplification of provision. The first sentence is redundant (see No. 22.1). Procedures for notification to the Bureau are given in Resolution 642 (WARC-79).

Footnote No 1 – European proposal for 25.3 (2) and (3) reads:

25.3 (2) Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties [only] in case of emergencies or disaster situations.

25.4 (3) The preceding provision may be modified by special arrangements between administrations.

Reasons: Allows administrations to divert from provision No. 25.3 to satisfy national requirements via special arrangements with other administrations.

Footnote No. 2 – European proposal for 25.5 §3 (1) reads:

25.5 § 3 (1) Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a licence to operate an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send and receive correctly texts in Morse code signals.

Reasons: Tasking Administrations to determine whether or not the maintaining of the Morse code skill in the amateur services on a national level.

Agenda No. 1.7.2 ...review of the provisions of Article 19 concerning the formation of call signs in the amateur services in order to provide flexibility for administrations.

Modify 19.68 § 30 (1) to the following:

– one character (see No. 19.50.1) and a single digit (other than 0 or 1), followed by a group of not more than four characters, the last of which shall be a letter, or

Reasons: Greater flexibility would be afforded. Previous regulation specified "three letters."

Suppress (eliminate) 19.49.

Reasons: This paragraph prohibits amateur station call signs commencing with a digit when the second character is the letter O or the letter I. This unnecessarily limits the call selections of administrations that are allocated such international call sign series. In the case of Yemen, which has been allocated only the international call sign series 7OA-7OZ, no amateur call sign can be formed that conforms to No. 19.49.

Agenda No. 1.7.3: review of the terms and definitions of Article 1 to the extent required as a consequence of changes made in Article 25.

No change is proposed to 1.56 or 1.57, the definitions of the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Service which read:

1.56 amateur service: A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

1.57 amateur-satellite service: A radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purpose as those of the amateur service.

COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS ADVERSELY IMPACT BIRDS

"The Petitioners have waited four long years for the FCC to even acknowledge the problem much less do something about it"

Three organizations have filed a Petition in federal court seeking "Relief from Unreasonable, Delayed Agency Action." The Forest Conservation Council, Friends of the Earth, and the American Bird Conservatory want the FCC "...to comply with its statutory duties under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

These groups contend that communication towers adversely impact migratory birds and want the FCC to take action required by law "...to minimize avian mortality."

The mission of the *Forest Conservation Council, Inc.*, (Linden, VA) "...is to protect and restore forests and wildlands throughout the United States and to safeguard the populations of plants, animals and fish that depend on native forest ecosystems." They have 2,000 individual and business members.

The mission of *Friends of the Earth, Inc.*, is "...to protect the planet from environmental degradation, to preserve biological, cultural and ethnic diversity, and to empower citizens to effect the quality of their environment and their lives. They claim 20,000 members.

The *American Bird Conservatory, Inc.*, "...is dedicated to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in the Americas." They say they have 3,400 members many of whom are avid bird watchers.

Together, they maintain that tall communications towers authorized by the FCC and their guy wires are harmful to migratory birds. "During nocturnal migrations in fog and mist, flocks of migratory birds ...[collide with towers and guy wires] ...sometimes killing thousands of birds on a single night. ...Some researchers believe the number could be as high as fifty million deaths per year."

The groups say the FCC is required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services on threatened and endangered species, to prepare an environmental impact statement that "discloses and mitigates" the adverse effects on migratory birds and to comply with Migratory Bird Treaty Act by minimizing avian mortality.

They take issue with the FCC's "blanket categorical exclusion" based on the false premise that "...the telecommunications industry does not generally raise environmental concerns." The groups are particularly outraged by the agency's practice of delegating the responsibility to determine whether environmental analysis is required to the tower applicant. The tower applicant claims there will be no environmental impact and the FCC simply rubber-stamps the applicant's form which does not mention tower impacts on migratory birds.

The groups also believe they "...should be awarded reasonable costs and attorney's fees..."

(Digested from a 13 page Petition filed February 13, 2003 with the U.S Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.)

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FCC AUTHORIZES GPS-ENHANCED FRS TRANSCEIVERS

"I believe that by removing prohibitions on FRS units' ability to transmit location information, their usefulness will increase to consumers. Users will now be able to locate family members or members of groups, which is invaluable if someone is lost or injured. By allowing our rules to accommodate such new technological advancements and by encouraging innovation by manufacturers, consumers benefit from the latest technological advancements." ...FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

In an order released February 10th, the FCC has authorized the manufacture, sale and use of Family Radio Service units that have the capability to determine where other FRS users are located.

In 1996, the FCC established the FRS as a very short range, two-way voice personal radio service. The objective was to fill a need for short distance, two-way personal communications among small groups of persons, including families, with minimal regulation.

The service, which does not require licensing, shares two small frequency bands in the 462 and 467 MHz range with the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS). FRS channels 1-7 are also GMRS frequencies and FRS channels 8-14 are sandwiched in between other GMRS frequencies. The current FRS rules authorize only two-way voice communications. One-way transmissions are permitted only for emergency messages or to establish two-way communications.

On June 22, 2000, Garmin International, Inc., (of Olathe, KS) a leading manufacturer of Global Positioning System-enabled consumer electronic devices requested an FCC rule waiver to allow it to design and market inexpensive FRS transceivers capable of transmitting GPS location information on FRS channels.

The GPS is a satellite-based navigation system made up of a network of 24 satellites placed into orbit by the U.S. Department of Defense. GPS was originally intended for military applications, but in the 1980s, the government made the system available for civilian use.

Garmin's request, granted three months later, permitted the firm to make FRS radios that allowed users to transmit GPS location information using a burst of FM digital data of not more than one second.

On December 26, 2000, Garmin followed the waiver request up with a formal *Petition for Rulemaking*, (assigned file number RM- 10070) seeking to make the authorization permanent. Specifically, Garmin asked that the FRS rules be amended to permit inexpensive, handheld FRS transceivers capable of both transmitting GPS location information on FRS frequencies and graphically displaying the location information on a radio.

In support of its Petition, Garmin noted it is now possible to provide a low cost handheld device capable of providing this information to the public with an accuracy of ten meters due to the removal of the so-called 'Selective Availability' from the GPS signal on May 2, 2000. 'Selective Availability' was the intentional degradation of the GPS signal to an accuracy of 100 meters.

The FCC agreed that adding GPS capability to FRS

units would provide a significant enhancement that the public could use to locate lost or injured family members or members of groups. On December 20, 2001, the FCC proposed to amend the rules to allow FRS units to transmit GPS location information and text messages over FRS channels. (NPRM WT Docket No. 01-339.) Comments from the public were due February 13, 2002, reply comments: February 28, 2002.

Comments were filed by Garmin International, Inc., the Northern California GMRS Users Group (NCGUG); the Personal Radio Steering Group, Inc. (PRSG is headed up by Corwin D. Moore, Jr. WB8UPM, Ann Arbor, MI), Stewart Teaze (N0MHS, Murrieta, CA) and XM Radio, a satellite radio broadcaster. Reply comments were filed by Garmin, William C. Houlne (WB6BNQ, National City, CA), NCGUG and PRSG.

The commenters generally supported permitting limited non-voice FRS communications. Some proposed additional features such as permitting other short data communications applications, revising the FRS definition, restricting store-and forward packet operations and requiring FRS units to have pre-set unique identification codes.

The FCC noted that since the FRS was initially authorized, text-messaging has become an increasingly common consumer activity, by way of internet instant messaging and text-enabled wireless telephones. "We believe that allowing incorporation of this function into FRS units will enhance their usefulness to consumers," FCC said.

The agency said that it would continue its rule prohibiting FRS interconnections to the public telephone system, however, to reduce congestion and that digital data transmissions must be limited to no more than one second out of a ten-second period.

FRS units will be permitted to determine the location of other FRS units within a given operating area. Polling individual FRS units will be optional, so manufacturers will be able to provide units without that feature to users who do not want it, or units on which the user can enable or disable the feature at will.

Garmin proposed to graphically display the GPS location information transmitted by another FRS unit and the FCC is allowing this feature but declined to impose a GPS data transmission standard.

"In summary, we believe that the public interest will be served by permitting FRS units to transmit location information and FRS user generated text messages. Therefore, in this Report and Order, we amend our Rules to allow a FRS unit to transmit a digital data emission and communications containing FRS user generated text and location information. These rule changes will enhance the usefulness of the FRS as a service that provides an affordable and convenient means of direct, short-range two-way voice communications among small groups of persons, with minimal regulation," FCC said. The new rules are effective thirty days after publication of the Report and Order in the Federal Register.